AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising platelet rich plasma and biocompatible poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from preserved platelets, and wherein the composition comprises an additive for platelet preservation.

2. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is made by a method comprising a step of mixing said poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer as a fiber slurry with platelet rich plasma.

3. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the platelet rich plasma and poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber slurry are mixed at a ratio of 50:50.

4. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber slurry comprises 1 mg of poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber per 5 ml of distilled water.

5. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition is equal parts platelet rich plasma and poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber slurry and further comprises at least 0.125% of a $CaCl_2$ solution.

6. (previously presented) The composition of claim 5, wherein the $CaCl_2$ solution is a 10% $CaCl_2$ solution.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A composition comprising platelet rich plasma and 1 mg of biocompatible poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber per 1.0 ml of 0.9% NaCl solution, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from preserved platelets, and wherein the composition comprises an additive for platelet preservation.

9. (currently amended) A composition comprising platelet rich plasma and 2 mg of biocompatible poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber per 1.0 ml of 0.9% NaCl solution, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from preserved platelets, and wherein the composition comprises an additive for platelet preservation.

10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2-6, 8 or 9, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition.

11. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2-6, 8 or 9, wherein the composition is a gel.

12. (withdrawn) A method for preserving platelets isolated from a mammal for later therapeutic use, the method comprising contacting said platelets with poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymers, such that a gel is formed and freezing the gel for later therapeutic use.

13. (withdrawn) A method of aggregating platelets isolated form a mammal, the method comprising contacting poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymers to the platelets, aggregating the platelets.

14. (withdrawn) A method of activating platelets isolated form a mammal, the method comprising contacting poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymers to the platelets, thereby activating the platelets.

15. (currently amended) A method for accelerating wound healing in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to a wound a composition comprising platelet rich plasma and biocompatible poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from ~~stored~~ preserved platelets, and wherein the composition comprises an additive for platelet preservation, such that wound healing is accelerated in the patient.

16. (withdrawn) A method for reducing hemostasis time in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to a wound a composition comprising platelet rich plasma and poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from stored platelets, such that hemostasis time is reduced in the patient.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the ~~stored~~ preserved platelets are derived from the patient.

18. (currently amended) A method for producing a platelet-poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber gel, comprising[[,]] mixing *ex vivo* a population of isolated platelets with a biocompatible poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber slurry in the presence of a 10% calcium chloride solution in an amount effective to elicit formation of a platelet-poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber gel, such that the platelets bind poly-β-1→4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fibers in greater numbers in comparison to a mixture comprising equivalent amounts of chitosan fibers and platelets.

19. (withdrawn) A method for producing a platelet-fiber gel, comprising: mixing (i) a population of isolated platelets with (ii) a fiber to which platelets bind in greater numbers than to chitosan, said mixing being performed in solution, such that the platelets bind to the fiber, thereby forming a platelet-fiber gel.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the mixing is performed in the presence of a 10% calcium chloride solution.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein at least 25%, 50%, 100%, 200% or 500% more platelets bind to the fiber than to chitosan having approximately the same surface area as the fiber.

22. (new). The method of claim 18, which further comprises adding an additive for platelet preservation, such that the gel further comprises a platelet additive.

23. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the isolated platelets are preserved with an additive for platelet preservation.

24. (new) The composition of any one of claims 1-6, 8 and 9, which is an *ex vivo* composition.